

On Top Of The News

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Saturday, May 15, 2010

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

JUDGES TRIAL



In this April 15, 2010 file photo, Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon arrives at the Supreme Court in Madrid. A Spanish court official said Tuesday May 11, 2010 that judge Garzon who indicted Augusto Pinochet and Osama bin Laden is seeking to take a leave of absence as he awaits trial on charges of abuse of authority.

Read more on Page A6

SPORTS NEWS

LEBRON GONE!



With the Boston Celtics world championship banners hanging from the rafters, Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James looks down during the fourth quarter as the Cavaliers trail the Celtics in Game 6 in a second-round NBA basketball playoff series, Thursday, May 13, 2010, in Boston. The Celtics beat the Cavs 94-85, eliminating them from the NBA playoffs.

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Final voyage



Space shuttle Atlantis lifts-off from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Fla. Friday May 14, 2010. Atlantis' 12-day mission will deliver a Russian built storage and docking module to the International Space Station.

Associated Press

Space shuttle Atlantis soars

MARICIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis thundered away on its final voyage to orbit Friday, hoisting an experienced crew of six and a full shipment of space station gear.

Continued on Page 3

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Obama pledges end to 'cozy' oil relationships



President Barack Obama, center, delivers remarks in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, following his closed meeting with his Cabinet and other senior administration officials on the ongoing effort to stop the BP oil spill, Friday, May 14, 2010. With Obama are Sec. of Interior Ken Salazar, left, and Sec. of Energy Steven Chu, right.

*Associated Press
Read more on Page 4*



Thai soldiers fire rubber bullets into the crowd of anti-government protesters hurling rocks, Friday, May 14, 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand. Protestors in the Thai capital were holding their ground Friday, as initial government moves overnight to blockade them showed no results, but instead set off sporadic violence that left one man dead and a high profile Red shirt militant in critical condition from a gun shot to the head.

Associated Press

Bangkok battle: Troops fire on rioting protesters

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Parking attendants trained to watch for terrorists



In this May 12, 2010 photo, a parking attendant looks over the block from the entrance of a garage in New York.

OSKAR GARCIA

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Parking attendants and meter maids could be the nation's latest line of defense against terrorist attacks.

A new government program aims to train thousands of parking industry employees nationwide to watch for and report anything suspicious — abandoned cars, for example,

or people hanging around garages, taking photographs or asking unusual questions. Organizers say parking attendants and enforcement officers are as important to thwarting attacks as the two Times Square street vendors who alerted police to a smoking SUV that was found to contain a gasoline-and-propane bomb.

"We can no longer afford as

Associated Press

a nation to say, 'It doesn't impact me or my family, so therefore I'm not getting involved,'" Bill Arrington of the Transportation Security Administration told parking industry professionals at a convention this week in Las Vegas. "We're saying, 'Please, sir, get involved.'"

The program has been in the works for about a year and gave its first presentation at the convention, attended by hundreds of people who run parking operations for cities, universities, stadiums and other places around the country.

Funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and administered by TSA, the program teaches parking lot operators to watch for odd activities that could precede an attack by days or months: strange odors such as diesel from gasoline vehicles, cars parked where they shouldn't be, people who seem to be conducting surveillance

by taking photos or drawing sketches.

Would-be terrorists may attempt to gain access to sensitive places or materials by applying for jobs or asking employees strange questions, said Jeff Beatty, a former FBI and CIA agent who led the training in Las Vegas.

The program is part of a larger effort by the government since Sept. 11 to enlist ordinary people — airline passengers, subway riders, bus drivers, truckers, doormen, building superintendents — to serve as the eyes and ears of law enforcement.

Beatty said the idea is not to turn ordinary people into government agents. "You're not going to be Jack Bauer. You're not going to be James Bond," he said. But he said terror attacks like the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people often are preceded by warning signs. For example, Timothy McVeigh parked a getaway car

in an alley near the Oklahoma City federal building with a note asking that it not be towed. He practiced walking from where he would park the truck to his car to time how long it would take to escape. Similarly, in the attempted Times Square bombing, the sports utility vehicle was parked illegally on the street, its engine running.

Garages nationwide stepped up security after the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, in which terrorists parked an explosives-laden truck in an underground garage. Six people were killed and hundreds injured.

Many parking lot managers across the nation are already keenly aware of the threat and train their employees on what to watch for.

In New York, Jose Vega, manager of a Central Parking System garage near Times Square, said the police come by once a year to brief the employees. □



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NASA

Continued from Front Page

Atlantis sped through a perfectly clear afternoon sky, blazing a trail over the Atlantic before huge crowds eager to catch one of the few remaining shuttle launches. More than 40,000 guests — the biggest launch-day crowd in years — packed the Kennedy Space Center. The shuttle's destination is the International Space Station, which was soaring over the South Pacific at the time of liftoff. The shuttle should catch up with the orbiting complex and its six residents Sunday morning. A piece of orbiting junk, however, was threatening to come too close to the space station. If necessary, Mission Control will order up a maneuver so the station can dodge the debris the night before Atlantis' arrival. The docking will not be delayed, even if the station has to move out of the way of the unidentified piece, NASA officials said. "Good luck, godspeed and have a little fun up there," launch director Mike Leinbach told the astronauts just before liftoff. He said he was speaking on behalf of all those who have worked on Atlantis since construction began in 1980.

"Like you said, there are thousands of folks out there who have taken care of this bird for a long time," replied commander Kenneth Ham. "We're going to take her on her 32nd flight, and if you don't mind, we'll take her out of the barn and make a few more laps around the planet."

The astronauts — all repeat

space fliers and all men — couldn't resist a little humor before they got down to business. They showed up for their steak and cheeseburger breakfast wearing blue and black smoking jackets, white shirts and black bow ties. This 12-day mission is the last one planned for Atlantis, the fourth in NASA's line of space shuttles. Only two flights remain after this one, by Discovery and Endeavour. NASA plans to end the 30-year program by the end of this year.

Atlantis — which rocketed into orbit for the first time in 1985 — is loaded with fresh batteries and a Russian-built compartment for the space station. The 20-foot-long (6.1-meter-long) module is crammed with food, laptop computers and other U.S. supplies. Ham and his men will install the compartment on the space station, and carry out three spacewalks to replace six old batteries and hook up an antenna and other spare parts.

Alexey Krasnov, chief of the Russian Space Agency's piloted program, said it was a miracle that Atlantis took off without any delays.

"It looks like that Atlantis is telling us, 'Please use me again. I am capable,'" he said, smiling. "Maybe two-thirds of the launches were postponed by the weather or hardware ... and today it worked exactly as planned."

Only a few small bits of insulating foam were seen coming off the fuel tank during liftoff, nothing significant, officials said. Even off-duty astronauts

marveled at the sight of Atlantis rising one last time, snapping pictures with their cell phones. "That was an incredible launch," said Rick Mastracchio, who flew last month on Discovery. President Barack Obama wants NASA to focus on getting astronauts to an asteroid by 2025 and into orbit around Mars by 2035. He canceled the previous administration's plan to return to the moon.

Friday's launch was NASA's fourth shuttle liftoff in six months. Now the pace will slow a bit. Discovery isn't due to fly until September, followed by Endeavour in November — at the earliest.

There's a chance that Atlantis could fly again after it returns to Earth on May 26. The shuttle will be prepped in case a rescue mission is needed for the last flight, by Endeavour. Assuming there's no emergency, Atlantis could be used for another supply run if the White House approves it, and that would close the shuttle program for good. Then the shuttles would head off to museums.

Immediately after watching liftoff, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, a Florida Democrat, told The Associated Press that he's encouraging one more flight for Atlantis and noted: "There's a good chance the president will approve it." He flew Columbia into orbit in 1986.

NASA's space operations chief, Bill Gerstenmaier, said he'd be glad to fly Atlantis next June with a minimal crew of four,



STS-132 crew members, front row from left, pilot Tony Antonelli, and commander Kenneth Ham, second row from left, mission specialists Garrett Reisman, and Michael Good, third row from left, mission specialists Stephen Bowen, and British-born, U.S. astronaut Piers Sellers leave the Operations and Checkout Building for a trip to launch pad 39-A and planned lift off on the space shuttle Atlantis Friday, May 14, 2010, at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. The final launch of Atlantis is planned for Friday afternoon.

Associated Press

if money is forthcoming. He estimates it would cost between \$600 million and \$1 billion to keep the shuttle program going beyond January.

Under the Obama plan,

NASA astronauts will hitch rides to the space station on Russian Soyuz rockets for the near future.

NASA expects to keep the space station running through 2020. □

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Obama pledges end to 'cozy' oil relationships

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama angrily decried the “ridiculous spectacle” of oil industry officials pointing fingers of blame for the catastrophic spill in the Gulf of Mexico and pledged on Friday to end a “cozy relationship” between the oil industry and federal regulators that he said had extended into his own administration.

Obama said he shared the “anger and frustration” felt by many Americans, and he acknowledged differing estimates about just how disastrous the damage from the leak could become. He said the administration’s response has “always been

geared toward the possibility of a catastrophic event.”

As Obama spoke in the White House Rose Garden, undersea robots in the Gulf tried to thread a small tube into the jagged pipe that is spewing oil into the water. The blown-out well has pumped out more than 4 million gallons of crude. BP engineers were trying to move the 6-inch tube into the leaking 21-inch pipe, known as a riser. The smaller tube was to be surrounded by a stopper to keep oil from leaking into the sea. BP said it hoped to know by later Friday if the tube succeeded in taking the oil to a tanker at the surface. The Gulf spill is not only a potential environmental and economic catastrophe. It also is a major political challenge



President Barack Obama, center, delivers remarks in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, following his closed meeting with his Cabinet and other senior administration officials on the ongoing effort to stop the BP oil spill, Friday, May 14, 2010. With Obama are from left to right, Deputy Administrator of the EPA Robert Perciasepe, Sec. of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, Sec. of Interior Ken Salazar, Sec. of Energy Steven Chu, Head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Dr. Jane Lubchenco and Rear Admiral Peter Neffenger.

Associated Press

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for Obama to demonstrate that his administration is doing everything it can to deal with the disaster. An AP-GfK poll this week found that to this point the spill hasn’t stained Obama nor dimmed the public’s desire for offshore energy drilling. Although some conservative pundits have called this “Obama’s Katrina,” that’s not how the public feels. Former President George W. Bush’s handling of Hurricane Katrina damaged his standing with some members of the American public.

Obama slammed BP and other companies responsible for equipment involved in the spill for pointing fingers at each other instead of accepting responsibility.

But he said responsibility rests with the federal government, too, and that oil drilling permits

had been granted without appropriate environmental reviews.

“That cannot and will not happen anymore,” Obama said. He announced a new examination of the environmental reviews that must happen before oil and gas development goes forward.

With millions of gallons of oil fouling the fragile Gulf ecosystem after a drilling rig exploded April 20 and later sank, Obama said: “It’s pretty clear that the system failed and it failed badly.” Eleven workers were killed in the accident.

“There is enough responsibility to go around, and all parties should be willing to accept it,” the president said.

He said he would not be satisfied until the leak was stopped, the spill was cleaned

up and all claims were paid. This week executives from three oil companies — BP PLC, which was drilling the well, Transocean, which owned the rig, and Halliburton, which was doing cement work to cap the well — testified in Congress, each trying to blame the other for what may have caused the disaster. Obama decried that scene.

“I did not appreciate what I considered to be a ridiculous spectacle during the congressional hearings into this matter. You had executives of BP and Transocean and Halliburton falling over each other to point the finger of blame at somebody else,” the president said.

“The American people could not have been impressed with that display, and I certainly wasn’t.” □

U.S. in criminal probe of W. Virginia mine blast

SAM HANANEL

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors said Friday they are investigating whether there was "willful criminal activity" by the company that operates the West Virginia coal mine where 29 workers died in an accident last month.

The U.S. attorney's office for the Southern District of West Virginia said in a letter that investigators are looking into possible criminal conduct by the mine's operator, Performance Coal, and its directors, officers and agents.

The letter, obtained by The Associated Press, asks the Labor Department to hold off pursuing dozens of civil cases against Performance for alleged mine safety violations.

Performance is a subsidiary of Massey Energy Co., which owns the Upper Big Branch mine.

Last month, federal law enforcement officials said the FBI had interviewed nearly two dozen current and former employees of Massey in the probe. But the Justice Department declined to publicly confirm there was a criminal investigation.

In the letter Friday, Assistant U.S. Attorney R. Booth Goodwin II said his office wants to make sure the pending civil cases don't interfere with the criminal probe. He asks Douglas White, a top lawyer for the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration,

to delay 44 civil penalty cases against Performance that could form the basis of criminal penalties under federal mine laws.

The cases involve about 500 citations issued between June 3, 2006, and April 5, 2010 — the day of the explosion, according to a federal official familiar with the records. The official requested anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the case.

About 300 of the citations are for "significant and substantial" violations, which are among the most serious that can be alleged at a mine, the official said. More than 90 allege the mine operator's high negligence or reckless disregard for safety standards.

The citations range from inadequate roof support and ventilation problems to improper accumulations of combustible dust, the official said.

A Massey spokesman has

said previously that the company was not aware of the nature of the federal probe but that "we intend to cooperate in all phases of the accident investigation." Massey chief executive Don Blankenship is set to testify next week before a Senate panel looking into the accident.

The company was repeatedly cited for problems with its methane ventilation system and other issues in the months before the accident. A half dozen of the civil cases federal investigators are looking at have been pending for at least three years at the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, a separate agency that resolves mine safety cases.

Some lawmakers blame Massey for clogging the system with legal challenges to dozens of safety citations to delay stronger penalties. The commission has a backlog of more than 16,000 cases and lawmakers are



Colebrook, N.H., firefighter spray water on a fire at a gun and ammunition manufacturing plant, in Colebrook, N.H., Friday, May 14, 2010. Multiple explosions at the MDM Muzzleloader plant in far northern New Hampshire killed two people Friday, according to State Fire Marshal Bill Degnan.

Associated Press

trying to direct more money so it can hire more staff. Massey has defended its safety record and says all of its appeals have merit. MSHA Director Joe Main said at a Senate hearing last month that Massey has a "troubling record" of safety violations and appeared to take a "catch-me-if-you-can" attitude toward workplace safety at the mine. □



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Spanish judge who indicted bin Laden suspended



Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon gestures as he leaves the National Court before getting into a car and driving away in Madrid, Friday May 14, 2010. Garzon, the crusading Spanish judge who indicted Augusto Pinochet and Osama bin Laden has been suspended from his post in a high-profile domestic case. Garzon was suspended Friday pending trial on charges he knowingly overstepped the bounds of his jurisdiction in probing in 2008 Spanish Civil War atrocities that were covered by an amnesty.

DANIEL WOOLLS

Associated Press Writer

MADRID (AP) — The Spanish judge who became an international hero by going after Augusto Pinochet and Osama bin Laden was suspended Friday for allegedly abusing his authority by investigating what is arguably Spain's own biggest unresolved case: atrocities committed during and after its ruinous Civil War.

The punishment could effectively end Judge Baltasar Garzon's career. The unanimous decision by a judicial oversight board, the General Council of the

Judiciary, was made during an emergency meeting about Garzon, said its spokeswoman, Gabriela Bravo.

Supporters chanted, cheered and clapped later as Garzon emerged from the nearby National Court, where he works. He hugged co-workers and appeared to be holding back tears before getting into a bulletproof limousine and riding away. Garzon, 54, famous worldwide for his cross-border justice cases, has been removed from his post pending his trial on charges of knowingly going beyond the limits of

his jurisdiction in 2008 by investigating the execution or disappearance of more than 100,000 civilians at the hands of supporters of Gen. Francisco Franco during the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War or in the early years of the Franco dictatorship.

Until Garzon acted, there had been no official probe of such atrocities, which were covered by an amnesty granted by Spain's Parliament in 1977, two years after Franco died, as the country moved toward reconciliation.

Spain's current Socialist government, which has generally been supportive of Garzon, said it respected the judiciary watchdog's decision but insisted he is innocent until proven guilty. "The process is not over," Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega said.

Some say Garzon's legal woes also have resulted from anger about the way he operated. Fellow judges accustomed to discretion in the judiciary system appeared to be fed up with his aggressive, headline-grabbing style and his status akin to that of a rock star among his most fervent fans, many of them living overseas in areas such as Latin America.

Garzon's critics also said he had a spotty record in winning convictions in high-profile cases and sometimes cut procedural corners.

The judge is under investigation in two other cases as well: one involving money that a Spanish bank paid to sponsor human rights seminars he gave while on sabbatical in New York a few years ago, and another in connection with jailhouse wiretaps he ordered as part of a probe targeting the conservative opposition Popular Party.

The panel that suspended him Friday is made up of

political appointees and deeply divided along party lines. Garzon was indicted last month by the Supreme Court in the civil war case, and this week the court threw out a final appeal that could have spared him from going on trial soon. The judicial oversight body then had no choice but to suspend Garzon.

Even though the decision was widely expected, many in Spain are treating it as marking the end of Garzon's career, regardless of what the verdict in the trial might be. Garzon's lawyer, Gonzalo Martinez-Fresneda, said as much a few weeks ago.

Earlier this week, Garzon requested a leave of absence from his post at the National Court to accept a job offer at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. This was seen as an effort to shield himself from suspension.

A subcommittee of the judiciary board met Friday evening to see if the suspended Garzon can be allowed to take up that job without resigning from his post in Madrid but it postponed a decision.

As the group deliberated, some 500 people gathered outside the National Court to protest the suspension, blocking traffic and chanting slogans against fascism and in support of the judge and justice for the victims of the Franco repression.

Garzon shot to fame after having Pinochet arrested while the aging former despot was visiting London in 1998, and trying in vain to have him extradited to Spain for trial over torture and other abuses committed during his dictatorship in Chile. With that he was credited with ushering in a new era in international law.

Garzon also indicted bin Laden in 2003, and Spanish colleagues took on cases

involving abuses in such faraway places as Tibet and Rwanda.

As a result, Garzon's name became synonymous with the concept of universal jurisdiction — the idea that some crimes are so heinous they can be prosecuted anywhere. But extraditions have been rare, and there has only been one conviction, that of an Argentine "dirty war" suspect in 2005.

And after receiving complaints from countries targeted in such Spanish probes, such as Israel, Spain changed its law last year so that these cases now require a clear link to Spain, such as Spanish victims.

On Friday, human rights groups lamented how Garzon is being treated.

"Judge Garzon's suspension will be mourned by human rights activists around the world. Garzon helped to deliver justice for atrocity victims abroad, and now he's being punished for trying to do the same thing at home," said Reed Brody, legal counsel for Human Rights Watch.

Garzon has denied any wrongdoing in the civil war case and said his probe was legitimate. He said Franco-era crimes amounted to crimes against humanity.

If convicted in the civil war court case, Garzon would not face jail time, but he could be removed from the National Court for up to 20 years. Garzon did not speak publicly Friday. But the day before, at a Latin American human rights conference, the clearly crestfallen judge said: "One does not face complex decisions with optimism but rather with calm, with that calm that comes with knowing I am innocent."

"As a man who respects the law, all that is left for me is to take on tomorrow's decision by exercising my defense," he said. □

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Mounting concern among Iraqis about more violence

REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — Many Iraqis are increasingly uneasy that a wave of bombings and shootings may revive all-out sectarian warfare that ravaged the country several years ago. In Baghdad and other cities, some are falling back into old cautionary habits — going outside only when necessary and avoiding busy markets and other crowded places.

These small but significant steps show the trepidation many Iraqis feel at a time when the country is floundering without a new government, facing threats of more attacks from al-Qaida-linked groups and making do with a dwindling number of U.S. troops. "If this power vacuum and struggle continues, then everybody is expecting the worst. We are afraid that more attacks and more security deterioration will push the country in a new cycle" of violence, said Qassim Jassim, of Mahmudiya, about 20 miles south of Baghdad. He said he and his family are staying home more often as a result. On Friday, al-Qaida in Iraq warned Shiites in an announcement that "dark days soaked with blood" lie ahead with a new campaign of violence yet to come.

Hours later, a bomb went off outside a mosque south of Baghdad, wounding 20 people, police said. Ten people were also killed in the northern city of Tal Afar by a suicide bomber near a soccer field. Earlier this week, 119 people were killed across the country on Monday, and a botched car bombing killed nine people in Baghdad's Sadr City on Wednesday.

Such attacks — many targeting Shiites — appear designed to provoke Shiite groups such as followers of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr to respond in kind.

Few people suggest the conditions right now are prime for a full-fledged sectarian war similar to 2006 — violence is still sporadic and nowhere near levels of just a few years ago; militias such as al-Sadr's Mahdi Army, while throwing their weight around,



Iraqi women, followers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, seen on their way to attend Friday prayers in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, May 14, 2010. On Friday, al-Qaida in Iraq warned Shiites that "dark days soaked with blood" lie ahead and warned of a new campaign of attacks violence yet to come. Hours later a bomb went off outside a mosque south of Baghdad, wounding 20 people, police said. The banner in Arabic reads, "coming for martyrdom."

Associated Press

haven't taken up arms, and the neighborhood-against-neighborhood violence that marked the earlier fighting is absent.

Also, many say they are simply tired of the violence and will be even more wary this time before allowing their country to plunge into fighting. But Iraqis are certainly worried.

More than two months have passed since the March 7 election, in which none of the blocs won a majority in parliament. The resulting political stalemate has led to concern about ongoing attacks at a time when, many Iraqis charge, politicians are more focused on retaining their positions than on protecting the country.

In the election, a bloc led by Ayad Allawi, a Shiite with strong Sunni support, won the most parliament seats. Incumbent Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has challenged the results and has formed a coalition with fellow Shiites that potentially could exclude Sunnis — though the election commission announced Friday that a full recount in Baghdad province showed no fraud or major irregularities.

"Sunni will be very frustrated if (Allawi's) list is sidelined in the new government," said Omar al-Bayati, from

Baghdad's Sunnineseighborhood of Azamiyah. "Many Sunnis think the formula of the current government should be changed; otherwise, the country is heading to the worst."

Suspicion runs both ways. One of the victims of the Tal Afar bombings, Hussein Mizhir, said the mostly Shiite victims preferred to go to a Kurdish hospital in Dahuk, instead of the hospital in Mosul which is closer but is also a hotbed of Sunni insurgents.

Al-Qaida seems to determined to exploit any sectarian tensions. In its announcement on Friday, its umbrella group in Iraq also named a new so-called "minister of war" to replace its leader, Abu Ayyub al-Masri, who was killed in April. At the time, U.S. and Iraqi officials touted the deaths of al-Masri and another high-ranking al-Qaida figure as a potentially devastating blow, but the Sunni terror group seems determined to show its relevance. "It is clear that al-Qaida is trying to ignite the sectarian war in this country and with the latest attacks, I think that the civil war is a possibility," said Alaa Mohammed, of the city of Hillah, about 60 miles (95 kilometers) south of Baghdad, scene of some of the worst bombings Monday.

Mohammed said he and his family are going shopping in the afternoon when markets are less crowded to protect themselves.

In 2006, Shiites and Sunnis largely relied on insurgent groups and militias to protect their neighborhoods because Iraqi security forces and U.S. troops were largely unable to do so. Eventually neighborhoods were simply walled off with large concrete blast walls that crisscrossed the city and kept warring factions apart. Most of the walls were later dismantled when major violence abated.

Laith Ahmed Salim, a student in western Baghdad, said there is no militia activity in his Ghazaliyah neighborhood but that people are watching for signs of danger and will be quick to guard their area if needed. Many Iraqis are loathe to say anything positive about the U.S. troop presence, but some worry about what will happen when American forces leave. The number of U.S. troops in the country is supposed to drop to about 50,000 by the end of August and all forces will leave by the end of 2011.

Iraqis on both sides of the sectarian divide have little trust in Iraqi security forces' ability to protect the country. Many people are jaded by what they

view as a system that values patronage over protection and frustrated at the ability of insurgents to carry out attacks despite Iraqi checkpoints at almost every turn.

Following bombings in April that killed 72 people, furious residents in Sadr City pelted the security forces with stones when they arrived on the scene. Al-Sadr offered Iraqi authorities the help of his forces — an offer viewed by many as a thinly veiled threat to rearm. On Friday, men wearing the distinctive black shirts of Mahdi Army members or other al-Sadr followers could be seen working alongside Iraqi security forces to search people entering the area where weekly prayers are held near the Sadr offices.

"We don't trust the government. We don't trust the security. We will protect ourselves," said one woman who came to pray, Nahedi Abdul Wahid.

But the normally crowded streets around the offices where worshippers usually lay out prayer mats were quieter Friday, because many people appeared to stay away.

"My mother ordered me not to go because of the violence," said Haidar al-Waili, a Sadr City resident.

An official with the Ministry of Interior said Iraqi security forces have taken steps to prevent a return to sectarian violence; the official spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the subject. To be sure, the situation today is much different than it was in 2006 or 2007 when death squads would raid neighborhoods, dump bodies on the street or leave a bullet on someone's doorstep as a warning that they should move to a different neighborhood.

From January through May 13, a total of 1,164 Iraqis were killed, according to a count by The Associated Press. That compares with 3,608 Iraqis killed during the same period in 2006.

"I do not think that that the sectarian war will break out again because Iraqis are now aware of the risks and the cost of such strife," said Hussein Rashid, of Hillah. □



Anti-government demonstrators are arrested by Thai soldiers in downtown Bangkok, Thailand, Friday, May 14, 2010. Thai troops fired bullets and tear gas at anti-government protesters rioting near the U.S. and Japanese embassies Friday as an army push to clear the streets sparked deadly clashes and turned central Bangkok into a virtual war zone.

Associated Press



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Bangkok battle: Troops fire on rioting protesters

JOCELYN GECKER

VIJAY JOSHI

Associated Press Writers

BANGKOK (AP) — Soldiers opened fire on anti-government protesters who battled them with firebombs and homemade rockets Friday in a second straight day of escalating violence as troops tried to clear the rioters from the streets of downtown Bangkok.

The clashes have killed 10 people and wounded 125, including two soldiers, the government said. The troops used tear gas, rubber bullets and live rounds on demonstrators, who set fire to tires and a police bus.

Explosions echoed through streets emptied of shoppers and tourists, plumes of black smoke rose amid skyscrapers and hotels, and the deteriorating security raised concerns that Thailand — a key U.S. ally with Southeast Asia's second-largest economy — was teetering toward instability because of the two-month political crisis. The Red Shirt protesters began their campaign to oust the government in March, saying it came to power illegitimately and is indifferent to the poor. In several rounds of violence since then, 37 people have been killed and more than 1,400 wounded.

Protesters have urged 82-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej to end his long silence and intervene, but there was no word from the widely revered ailing monarch.

The latest violence erupted Thursday after the Red Shirts' military strategist — a former Thai general — was shot and seriously injured, apparently by a sharpshooter, as he spoke to foreign journalists. One protester was fatally shot later Thursday and four were killed Friday, the army said. Among the wounded were two Thai journalists and a Canadian reporter — all from gunfire.

Witnesses saw several groups of a dozen or more people detained at the scene of several clashes. No figures were released on how many were detained.

As night fell, defiant Red Shirt leaders led followers in Buddhist prayers and called on volunteers to bring more tires for their barricades.

"Death cannot stop us civilians from continuing our fight," said Jatuporn Prompan, a protest leader.

The Red Shirts, mostly rural poor, began camping in the capital March 12 to try to force out Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva. They claim his coalition government came to power illegitimately through manipulation of the courts and the backing of the powerful military.

The military had forced Thaksin Shinawatra, the populist premier favored by the Red Shirts, from office in a 2006 coup. Two subsequent pro-Thaksin governments were disbanded by court rulings before Abhisit became prime minister.

In a Twitter message from exile, Thaksin said

the "very cruel and unusual government" will "end up as war criminals" in the International Court of Justice.

About 10,000 Red Shirts have barricaded themselves in a 1-square-mile protest zone in Rajprasong, Bangkok's premier shopping and diplomatic enclave. They have set up a perimeter of tires and bamboo stakes, refusing to leave until Abhisit dissolves Parliament and calls new elections.

The occupation has forced luxury hotels and high-end shops to close for weeks. Major roads around the protest site were blocked to traffic Friday, and the city's subway and elevated train shut down early. The embassies of the United States, Britain and other countries were also closed. The political uncertainty has spooked foreign investors and damaged the vital tourism industry, which accounts for 6 percent of the economy.

"Abhisit must dissolve Parliament and return power to the people immediately, and not serve as caretaker prime minister," Jatuporn said from a stage in the protest zone, which is now encircled by the army in a wider perimeter.

As Jatuporn spoke, a series of gunshots rang out close by, panicking the crowd of listeners who shrieked in fear and ducked for cover.

"We are being surrounded. We are being crushed. The soldiers are closing in on us. This is not a civil war yet, but it's very, very cruel," Weng Tojurakarn, another protest leader, told The Associated Press.

The crisis appeared to be reaching a resolution last week when Abhisit offered to hold elections in November, a year early. But the hopes were dashed after Red Shirt leaders made more demands.

Jatuporn said only the king "can stop the killings of civilians by Abhisit."

The beloved monarch has in the past mediated political crises, but he has stayed away from commenting on this one. Observers say he may be reluctant to get involved in a conflict that he may not be able to solve. Another problem is his failing health — he has been hospitalized since September and the palace has given no updates after initially describing his ailment as a lung infection. The Red Shirts have kept soldiers at bay by firing guns and homemade rockets, hurling rocks and commandeering government vehicles. Some bolder protesters came close to the soldiers on motorcycles, shouted obscenities and sped away.

Army spokesman Col. Sansern Kaewkamnerd said some protesters also used grenades and other weapons, and have an estimated 500 armed fighters.

The troops have kept their distance and made little progress toward their goal of clearing the streets.

Soldiers addressed the protesters with a loudspeaker, saying: "We are the people's army. We are just doing our duty for the nation. Brothers and sisters, let's talk together." □

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Clashes in Kyrgyzstan kill 1, injure more than 60

JALAL-ABAD, Kyrgyzstan (AP) — Gunfire erupted in Kyrgyzstan on Friday as hundreds of interim government backers fought supporters of deposed President Kurmanbek Bakiyev for control over regional government buildings. At least one person was killed and more than 60 injured in the worst violence since last month's forceful government change. The opponents exchanged gunshots, hurled stones and fought with sticks on a square in front of the regional government building in Jalal-Abad, the administrative center of a province in southwestern Kyrgyzstan.

Several hundred Bakiyev supporters, some armed with automatic rifles, had holed up in the building overnight after capturing it Thursday evening, but were driven out on Friday by backers of the interim government.

The interim government's backers also ejected a pro-Bakiyev crowd Friday from the regional government offices in Osh, the country's second-largest city about 70 kilometers (45 miles) from Jalal-Abad. The two sides

threw rock at one another, but no serious injuries were reported there.

Both cities are in southern Kyrgyzstan, the power base for Bakiyev, who was ousted April 7 amid clashes between government forces and protesters that left at least 85 people dead in the capital, Bishkek. Bakiyev fled to the ex-Soviet nation of Belarus. Witnesses in Teyit, the village hosting Bakiyev's family compound, said about 500 pro-government supporters set fire to the deserted homes of Bakiyev's relatives. Farid Niyazov, a spokesman for interim authorities, confirmed to The Associated Press that three houses had been torched. The prospect of further disturbances in Kyrgyzstan will cause alarm in Washington and Moscow, which both have military bases in the Central Asian nation.

The U.S. Embassy in Bishkek voiced concern about the unrest and urged parties to refrain from violence, while the Kremlin sent former Russian Security Council secretary Vladimir Rushailo as a special envoy to Kyrgyzstan. In Moscow, Russia's Deputy

Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin met with U.S. Ambassador John Beyrle to discuss coordinated efforts to help stability in Kyrgyzstan, the Foreign Ministry said.

The Russian Security Council current secretary, Nikolai Patrushev, said Moscow would not interfere as Kyrgyzstan's interim government was capable of restoring order, according to Russian news wires.

About 4,000 backers of the Ata-Meken party that supports the interim government had arrived Friday in Jalal-Abad to try to evict the occupiers, but many dispersed when gunfire broke out, leaving a crowd of several hundred.

Some men in the approaching mob returned fire, while others fought with sticks. At least 1 person died of wounds and more than 60 others were injured, including 32 with gunshot wounds, the Health Ministry said.

During a second wave of the gunfire exchange Friday afternoon, an Associated Press reporter saw one man hit by a bullet in the shoulder.

"The interim government has the situation under total control,



Kyrgyz interim government supporters storm one of the regional official buildings occupied by backers of deposed President Kurmanbek Bakiyev in the city of Osh, Kyrgyzstan Friday, May 14, 2010. In Osh, Kyrgyzstan's second largest city, hundreds of interim government supporters ejected a crowd of Bakiyev's backers that had taken the regional government headquarters a day earlier.

Associated Press

with the exception of Jalal-Abad," General Prosecutor Azimbek Beknazarov said. "Within one day, we will settle the situation in Jalal-Abad."

There were no signs of disturbances in the capital, though about 400 Ata-Meken party supporters rallied in support of the interim government while others marched around Bishkek waving red flags, which they did before driving Bakiyev from power.

Prosecutors also disclosed details of what they called a wiretapped telephone exchange between Bakiyev's former adviser Usen Sydykov and a lawmaker about organizing rallies in southern

Kyrgyzstan.

The general prosecutor said Sydykov — seen as a behind-the-scenes power broker in Kyrgyzstan — is heard issuing instructions for the seizure of administrative buildings in Osh and Jalal-Abad.

Sydykov has been arrested for his involvement in the clashes, Beknazarov said, while militia groups have been formed across the country to prevent more riots by Bakiyev supporters.

The acting security services director, Keneshbek Duishebayev, accused members of Bakiyev's family, in particular his oldest son, Marat, of fomenting instability □

'Law & Order' is canceled by NBC



FILE - In this April 17, 2008 file photo, from left, actors S. Epatha Merkerson, Jeremy Sisto, Anthony Anderson, and director Marisol Torres are shown on the set of 'Law & Order' in New York.

(AP Photo/Bernadette Tuazon, file)

FRAZIER MOORE,
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — The venerable police-courtroom drama "Law & Order" has been axed.

NBC announced Friday that the show

would end its historic 20-season run on May 24, with a season finale that was never meant to bring the saga to a close.

The show starred an ensemble cast currently consisting of Jeremy Sisto,

Anthony Anderson, Linus Roache, Alana De La Garza, Sam Waterston and S. Epatha Merkerson, who, unrelated to the show's abrupt cancellation, had already announced she was moving on.

Even as it issued a death sentence to the original "Law & Order," NBC announced a new drama in the "Law & Order" franchise called "LOLA" ("Law & Order: Los Angeles"). Premiering this fall, "LOLA" is described as a procedural crime drama "that will follow the theme and storylines similar to the 'Law & Order'-brand series on the streets of Los Angeles." Casting for the show is under way, the network said.

NBC will also renew "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" for a 12th season.

NBC's full 2010-11 schedule will be officially released Sunday.

The sudden end of "Law & Order" could be explained by sagging ratings, production expense and creative fatigue, but its renewal had been widely expected nonetheless. Then, on Thursday, a flurry of reports declared the series to be doomed. NBC refused to

confirm the reports. Negotiations were said to be continuing late Thursday.

Jeff Gaspin, chairman of NBC Universal Television, praised "Law & Order" creator-producer Dick Wolf and said it "will continue to make an impact like no other series before."

But the cancellation denies Wolf his long-held dream of surpassing "Gunsmoke" from a generation ago as TV's longest-running drama. The two series are tied at 20 seasons each.

"Never complain, never explain," Wolf said in a statement.

"Law & Order" won a Peabody Award and the 1997 Emmy Award for Outstanding Drama Series.

It also became a familiar presence on the streets of New York as it went about its on-location filming.

"Over the last 20 years, 'Law & Order' became a New York City institution," said New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg in a statement. Noting that "it began filming in the city at a time when few series did," he expressed gratitude to Wolf for "helping showcase the city's depth and versatility as a setting and all of the advantages of filming here." □



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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks tumble as worries about Europe return



Bank of America specialist Mark Fitzgerald works at the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, May 14, 2010 in New York

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

**By STEPHEN BERNARD
and IEVA M. AUGSTUMS,
AP Business Writers**

NEW YORK – Stocks tumbled for a second day Friday after concerns grew that the deep spending cuts under Europe's bailout plan would slow a global recovery.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended down 163 points but closed well off its lows of the day. The Dow and other major stock indexes still posted big gains for the week after rocketing higher Monday on hopes that a bailout plan for Europe would prevent a debt crisis in Greece from spreading.

The latest drop followed a slide of more than 3 percent in European markets. The euro dropped to a 19-month low against the dollar.

Investors seeking safety piled into Treasurys and the dollar. Gold settled lower after hitting another record. Crude oil sank nearly 4 percent, and an indicator of stock market volatility jumped.

Currency traders have been moving out of the euro throughout the week because of concerns that cost-cutting measures in countries like Greece, Spain and Portugal would slow economic activity on the continent and elsewhere. Now stock investors are also looking at those same

problems.

Shifting sentiment about the problems in Europe whipsawed the market during the week. Major indexes posted their biggest gains in more than a year on Monday after a nearly \$1 trillion rescue package from the European Union and International Monetary Fund raised hopes that debt-strapped EU countries wouldn't be a drag on a global rebound.

But the glow from the bailout package faded during the week, pushing the euro down sharply against the dollar. The spike in the dollar hit the prices for oil and other commodities, hurting major U.S. energy and materials companies.

"Clearly the action in the euro is reflecting the fact that at least currency investors don't think the bailout plan plus the austerity measures are sufficient," said Uri Landesman, president of Platinum Partners in New York. "The euro is leading the market down."

Investors now worry that the spending cuts in Europe being called for in the bailout package will curtail the ability of weaker countries like Spain and Portugal to grow their way out of a recession. More strikes are expected in Spain and Greece as workers protest cuts in pensions and other public spending. □

The euro, which is used by 16 countries, slid as low as \$1.2359 in New York, its weakest point since October 2008. The euro has dropped more than 6 percent since the beginning of the month and is close to its lowest level in four years.

There were also concerns Friday about corporate profits. Shares of credit card companies tumbled after the Senate voted to force them to reduce fees for debit card transactions. Visa fell 9.9 percent, while Mastercard lost 8.6 percent.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow fell 162.79, or 1.5 percent, to 10,620.16. The Dow had been down nearly 246 points. It has fallen seven of the last nine days.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 21.76, or 1.9 percent, to 1,135.68, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 47.51, or 2 percent, to 2,346.85.

Stocks ended off their worst levels perhaps in part because traders aren't sure what leaders in Europe might do over the weekend to shore up confidence in the euro and the EU over all.

The market ended off its lows but it was still a wild week for investors. After jumping 405 points on Monday, the Dow slipped Tuesday and jumped 149 points on Wednesday. The gains helped the Dow erase its losses from late in the prior week when fears about debt woes in Greece pounded the market.

Selling resumed Thursday to send the Dow down about 114 points after more worries emerged about the cost of the European rescue.

For the week, the Dow rose 2.3 percent, the S&P 500 index added 2.2 percent and the Nasdaq gained 3.6 percent. Treasurys jumped Friday, pushing down yields. □

Congress close to deal to pay for tax cuts

**By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER,
Associated Press Writer**

WASHINGTON – Congress is finally getting around to extending more than 50 popular tax breaks that expired at the end of last year, including money savers for homeowners, businesses and shoppers in states with no income tax. Lawmakers want to raise taxes on investment fund managers to help cover the cost.

Legislation combining the tax breaks with more aid for people who have been unemployed for long stretches is expected to come up for a vote in the House next week. The bill would extend unemployment benefits for up to 99 weeks in many states and subsidize health insurance premiums for laid-off workers through the end of the year.

Details are still being worked out, but lawmakers also plan to expand a federal bond program that subsidizes local infrastructure projects, and to protect doctors from a scheduled 21 percent cut in Medicare payments.

The tax breaks would be retroactive to Jan. 1 but would again expire at the end of December. They include a property tax deduction for people who don't itemize, lucrative credits that help businesses finance research and develop new products, and a sales tax deduction that mainly helps people in states without income taxes.

Delays in extending the tax breaks have left thousands of businesses unable to plan for their tax liabilities. Delays in passing a long-term extension of emergency unemployment benefits has forced thousands of laid off workers to live month to month with no certainty of income. Unemployment benefits for many will start to run out June 2, unless Congress acts.

Congress routinely extends the tax breaks each year — the House and Senate have already passed competing versions for 2010. But lawmakers have been unable to agree on how to pay for them.

House and Senate negotiators said this week they are close to a deal that would increase taxes on investment fund managers and some multinational companies. Also on the table: Requiring lawyers, doctors and other service providers to pay Medicare taxes on income they receive through their businesses.

The overall cost of the bill will likely top \$100 billion, with the unemployment benefits and health insurance subsidies adding to the budget deficit.

The tax increases could raise more than \$50 billion over the next decade, though lawmakers cautioned they are still working on the details.

The tax breaks benefit a wide variety of individuals and businesses and total about \$30 billion a year. They include a deduction for college tuition for couples making less than \$160,000 a year, and a deduction for teachers who use their own money to buy school supplies.

There is a tax credit for community development agencies that invest in low-income neighborhoods, as well as a tax break for restaurant owners and retailers who remodel their stores or build new ones. □



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NBA Playoffs

Celtics advance, eliminate LeBron, Cavs in 6 games

JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Celtics advanced to the NBA Eastern Conference finals with a 94-85 victory over Cleveland in Game 6 on Thursday, sending LeBron James and the Cavaliers to an early offseason.

Kevin Garnett scored 22 points and added 12 rebounds, and Rajon Rondo had 21 points and 12 assists to reach the East finals against the Orlando Magic, who are unbeaten in the playoffs after sweeping Charlotte and Atlanta in the opening rounds.

"Winning is gratifying. You're playing the best team in basketball; the challenge is there; you don't have to dress it up," Garnett said. "One thing we don't lack is confidence. We're a veteran team and we understand when it's time to lock in as a



Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett (5) and teammate Kendrick Perkins, right, celebrate as Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, left, walks to the bench during a timeout late in the fourth quarter of Game 6 in a second-round NBA basketball playoff series in Boston on Thursday, May 13, 2010. The Celtics won 94-85, knocking the Cavaliers from the playoffs.

Associated Press



Venus Williams from US returns the ball during her match against Samantha Stosur from Australia at the Madrid Open Tennis Tournament in Madrid, on Friday, May 14, 2010.

Associated Press

GUY HEDGECOE

Associated Press Writer

MADRID (AP) — Defending champion Roger Federer rallied from a set and a break down to beat Ernests Gulbis 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 Friday and secure a place in the Madrid Masters semifinals.

Federer lost to Gulbis last

month at the Rome Masters in his first clay-court match of the season, and the Latvian looked set to repeat the upset until the top-ranked Swiss found his stride in the second set.

"I think it's one of the toughest things in tennis if you lose against a player and you have



group. We did just that."

Despite his sixth career playoff triple-double, James is headed for another premature offseason after winning a second MVP award and leading the Cavs to an NBA-best 61 wins in the regular season.

"The regular season is a lot different than the postseason," Cavaliers coach Mike Brown said. "We knew that they were going to be a different team. We hoped that we were. Boston stepped up, and we didn't."

This offseason is destined to define the future of the franchise — and the rest of the NBA, too.

James is eligible to opt out of his contract this summer, a move that would make the two-time MVP a free agent and set off a scramble for his services from New York to Miami to Los Angeles and, of course, back in Cleveland.

"I just told him, 'Keep your head up, man. I've been there,'" said Garnett, who was a star without a title in Minnesota for more than a decade before joining the Celtics and leading them to their NBA-record 17th championship in 2008. "You have a very, very, very bright future. Continue to work and make decisions based on you and your family. Best advice I can give him."

James scored 27 points with 10 assists, and his 19 rebounds matched a career-high and were the most he's ever had in a playoff game. But he also had nine turnovers.

Mo Williams scored 20 of his 22 points in the first half for the Cavaliers.

The Celtics had missed their first eight 3-point attempts when Paul Pierce hit a 3 that gave them a 65-58 lead with 4:06 left in the third.

Continued on Page 14

Federer overcomes Gulbis

Madrid Masters

to play against him in the next couple of weeks," Federer said.

"I was very happy with the way I was able to return and mix up the game a bit and at the end I thought it was a really great performance."

Gulbis took a 3-0 lead in the first by converting his first break point when the onrushing Federer failed to return a ball driven at his feet.

Federer then saved three set points before the Latvian converted his fourth with an ace, and continued by breaking Federer again to start the second. But it was all Federer from there, as he broke back immediately when Gulbis sent a forehand long and then dominated the rest of the set.

"I think it's one of the toughest things in tennis if you lose against a player and you have

— despite having to save three break points himself at 3-1. In the decider, Federer used a perfectly judged backhand lob to break for a 2-1 lead, and was never threatened on his serve the rest of the way.

He converted his first match point with a forehand winner, shortly after a light rain started falling over the court.

Earlier Friday, Rafael Nadal was close to his clay-court best in beating Gael Monfils 6-1, 6-3.

The 23-year-old Monfils was playing his first clay tournament of the season and was outclassed by a dominant Nadal, who has not lost a service game in his three matches in Madrid.

The second-seeded Spaniard

pressured Monfils' serve from the start, and broke to go up 3-1 in the first set after the 12-seeded Frenchman double-faulted.

Another unforced error by Monfils gave Nadal a second break, before he comfortably served out the set.

Monfils earned his only two break points of the match when leading 2-1 in the second, but Nadal won the next four points and cruised through the rest of the set.

Nadal is undefeated on clay this season with a 13-0 record, having won titles in Monte Carlo and Rome and is looking for a record 18th Masters title. Nadal and Andre Agassi have won 17 each, with Federer on 16. □

NL Roundup

SD complete sweep of SF

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Mat Latos pitched a shutout and also drove in the lone run to give the San Diego Padres a 1-0 win over the San Francisco Giants on Thursday, completing a three-game sweep of the clash of National League West leaders. Latos (3-3) retired the first 15 batters and has not given up a run in 18 innings. The only hit he conceded came when Eli Whiteside opened the sixth with a one hopper that rebounded off Latos' glove hand to shortstop. He outdueled San Francisco starter Jonathan Sanchez (2-3). Latos completed his first

career complete game, striking out six and walking none in a game that lasted only 2 hours, 6 minutes.

It was the first sweep by the Padres at San Francisco since 2005.

Nationals 14, Rockies 6

In Denver, Ryan Zimmerman hit two homers and drove in a career-high six runs, helping Washington beat Colorado in a game that ended after eight innings due to rain. Zimmerman hit a towering two-run homer to left in the first inning and a three-run shot to left-center in the fifth. It was his sixth career multi-homer game. Both homers

came off Colorado starter Jhoulys Chacin (2-1).

Washington broke open a one-run game in the eighth by scoring seven times, the big blow a three-run double from pinch hitter Cristian Guzman. Washington's Doug Slaten (1-0) got two outs in the seventh to earn the win.

Marlins 2, Mets 1

In Miami, Cody Ross scored from third base on a wild pitch by Fernando Nieve in the ninth inning, lifting Florida over New York.

Ross walked with one out off Nieve (1-2) and took third on a single by Ronny Paulino. Nieve's first pitch to Dan Uggla was a breaking ball in the dirt that bounced away from catcher Rod Barajas, and Ross slid across home plate with the winning run.

Florida's Leo Nunez (2-0) took the win with a scoreless ninth after Luis Castillo reached second on a single and an error to start the inning.

Astros 4, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Houston starter Bud Norris shut down St. Louis for the fourth straight time as the Astros wrapped up a three-game sweep.

Lloyd wins sixth stage of Giro d'Italia

MARINA DI CARRARA, Italy (AP) — Australian rider Matthew Lloyd held on after an early breakaway to win the sixth stage of the Giro d'Italia on Friday, and Vincenzo Nibali kept the overall lead. Lloyd finished the 106-miles course in 4 hours, 24 minutes and 14 seconds for his first stage win in a Grand Tour. He also took 13 mountain points to take the green jersey as the best climber.

"I'm shocked, it was incredible," Lloyd said. "This race was always in my heart. It's a romantic and special thing."

Lloyd and Rubens Bertogliati of Switzerland broke away early and the Australian then pulled away on the final climb.

Bertogliati finished second, 1:06 behind, with Daniel Hondo leading home the peloton to finish third, another 9 seconds back.

Lloyd and Bertogliati attacked soon after the start and maintained their lead throughout the race. The Australian made his break on the final climb, the Bedizzano, and continued to extend his lead on the descent to the finish line.

Nibaldi leads the overall



Australia's Matthew Lloyd celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the sixth stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race from Fidenza to Marina di Carrara, Friday, May 14, 2010. Lloyd finished the 106-miles course in 4 hours, 24 minutes and 14 seconds. He also took 13 mountain points to take the green jersey as the best climber.

Associated Press

standings by 13 seconds ahead of fellow Italian Ivan Basso. A number of riders struggled in the wet conditions. Britain's Bradley Wiggins suffered his third crash of the race, while Paolo Tiralongo and Guillaume Bonnafond were taken to a hospital after crashes.

The race ends May 30 in Verona. □



San Diego Padres starting pitcher Mat Latos celebrates with catcher Nick Hundley after recording the last out against the San Francisco Giants during a baseball game in San Francisco, Thursday, May 13, 2010. San Diego won 1-0.

Associated Press

Norris (2-4) struck out eight and walked none in eight innings.

Though he's 8-7 with a 5.10 ERA in his career, Norris is 4-0 with a 0.35 ERA in four career starts against St. Louis. The Astros scored all four runs in the third, perhaps taking advantage of Chris Carpenter's temper. Cardinals starter Carpenter (4-1) and Carlos Lee had a staredown and then exchanged words after Lee popped out with

two runners on base, leading to both benches and bullpens streaming on the field, although nothing got overheated.

Hunter Pence was next up with two outs, and he hit his fifth homer to put Houston ahead 4-0.

In other NL games it was Houston 4, St. Louis 1; San Diego 1, San Francisco 0; Florida 2, N.Y. Mets 1; and Washington 14, Colorado 6 innings. □

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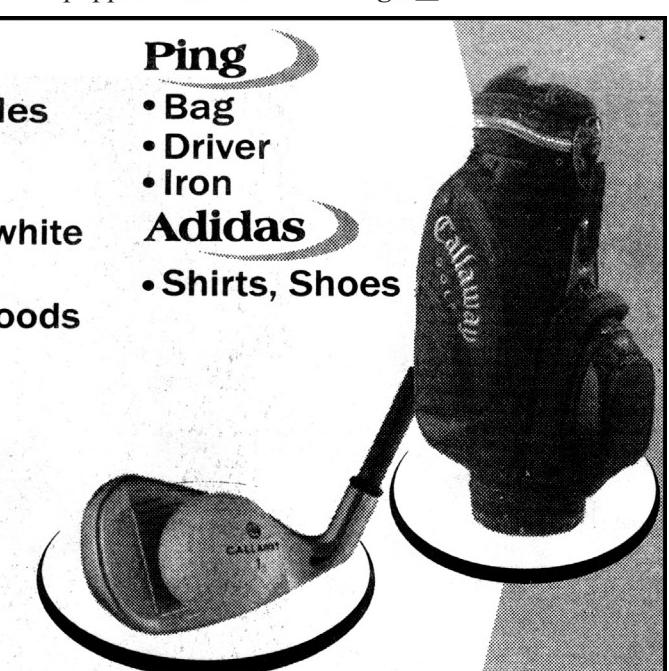
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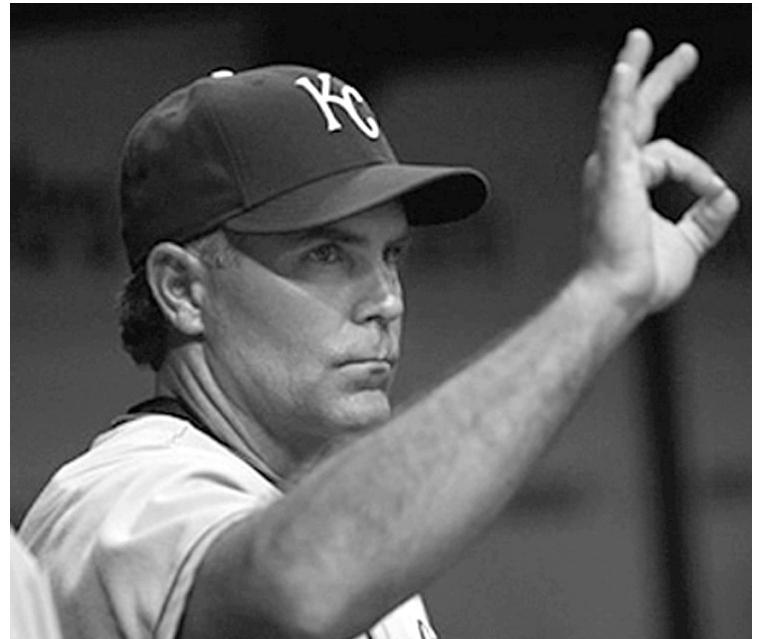
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AL Roundup

Greinke gets 1st win; Royals fire manager Hillman



Kansas City Royals manager Trey Hillman signals from the dugout during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Saturday May 1, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — The Kansas City Royals fired manager Trey Hillman immediately after pitcher Zack Greinke earned his first win in eight starts, 6-4 over the Cleveland Indians on Thursday. Alberto Callaspo hit a three-run homer and the Royals snapped a seven-game skid

by roughing up Cleveland starter David Huff (1-5) and giving Greinke (1-4) his most run support of the season. The hard-luck right-hander made the most of it, winning for the first time since September by allowing up three runs in six innings.

The 47-year-old Hillman

NBA PLAYOFFS

Continued from Page 12

James hadn't made an outside shot before hitting back-to-back 3-pointers to cut it to 78-74 early in the fourth quarter. But Rondo's layup, a pair of 3s for Pierce and Wallace and then Tony Allen's steal, leading to a Garnett dunk at the other end, sent the Cavaliers into a timeout to regroup, down 88-74 with 5:53 left in their season.

"You knew it was coming at some point with LeBron," said Celtics coach Doc Rivers, who reminded his players that they weren't good enough to take over the game. "That's what that timeout was about: to remind them that we can't do that, what LeBron was doing."

It was the second straight year Cleveland has finished the regular-season with the No. 1 overall seed, and the second in a

row that they have failed to get out of the East. Last year, they lost to Orlando in the conference finals, an exit that left James so shaken he skulked off the court without shaking hands.

This year, he might not stop until he finds himself in a new city.

James seemed like he couldn't wait to slip off his Cavaliers jersey, pulling it off as soon as he reached the tunnel to the locker room. He casually flipped it to an attendant moments after he walked into the dressing room.

Brown said he wasn't ready to think about the future yet.

"He's a heck of a talent and a great guy," he said. "But right now we just lost the series. I'm not thinking of that. It wouldn't be fair to everyone in that locker room to think beyond tonight." □

was in his third season with Kansas City and went 152-207. Former Brewers manager Ned Yost, who had joined the Royals' front office in January took over the team.

Tigers 6, Yankees 0

At Detroit, Justin Verlander pitched a shutout into the seventh inning and Miguel Cabrera tagged CC Sabathia as Detroit handed New York just its second series loss of the season.

Verlander (4-2) won his third straight start, giving up four hits and four walks in 6 2-3 innings.

Cabrera and Brennan Boesch gave the Tigers a 3-0 lead with back-to-back homers down the right-field line in the fourth. Cabrera added a two-run double in the sixth.

Orioles 6, Mariners 5

At Baltimore, Luke Scott hit a grand slam to cap a five-run eighth inning against reliever Brandon League as

Baltimore held on to beat Seattle when left fielder Corey Patterson nailed Josh Wilson at the plate for the final out.

Wilson tried to score from second on Ichiro Suzuki's single.

Held to five hits over seven innings by Seattle starter Felix Hernandez, the Orioles promptly broke loose against League (3-3). Patterson, promoted from Triple-A earlier this week, hit a leadoff homer in the eighth to start the comeback from a 5-1 deficit.

Rangers 2, Athletics 1, 12 innings

At Arlington, Texas, Vladimir Guerrero delivered an RBI single in the 12th inning as Texas beat Oakland in a game in which one balk became a base hit and another led to the ejection of the Rangers catcher.

Guerrero was hitless in five at bats before lining a shot

deep into the left-center gap off Oakland closer Andrew Bailey (0-1) to drive home Michael Young.

Dustin Nippert (2-3), the loser in the 13-inning series opener Tuesday, worked around a leadoff single in the 12th.

Jake Fox had three hits for Oakland, including a single in the fourth on a pitch from C.J. Wilson that umpires had signaled was a balk. Because Fox hit the ball, the A's by rule got to choose which to take — so Fox wound up with a base hit and Wilson wasn't charged with a balk.

Wilson got called for another balk in the seventh, when he flinched his body while still on the rubber without delivering a pitch. In other AL games it was Baltimore 6, Seattle 5; Detroit 6, N.Y. Yankees 0; Texas 2, Oakland 1, 12 innings; and Kansas City 6, Cleveland 4. □



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, right, embraces Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett after Game 6 in a second-round NBA basketball playoff series, Thursday, May 13, 2010, in Boston. The Celtics beat the Cavs 94-85, eliminating the Cavaliers from the playoffs.

Associated Press



DISCRIMINATION DOES NOT PROTECT AGAINST HIV... IT HURTS

Powell wins 100 at Diamond League meet in Doha

MICHAEL CASEY

Associated Press Writer

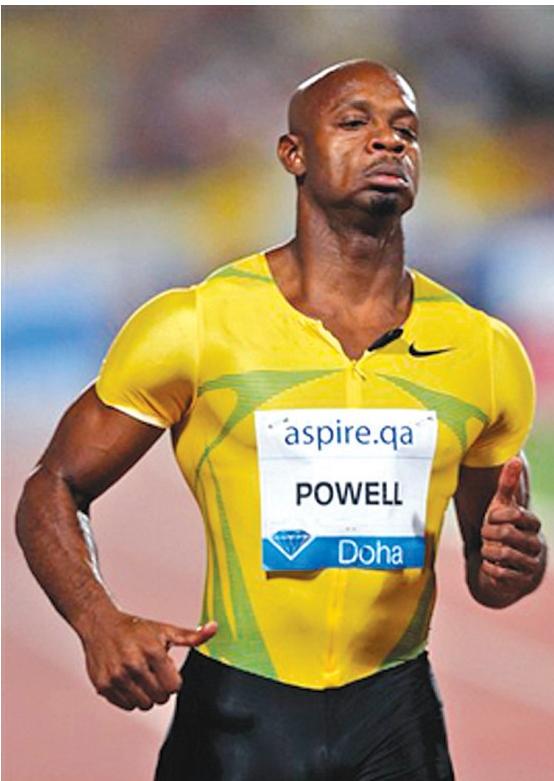
DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Jamaican sprinter Asafa Powell recovered from a poor start to win the 100 meters Friday with a wind-aided time of 9.81 seconds at the inaugural Diamond League meet in Doha.

Powell was slow out of the blocks and stepped out of his lane three times before blowing past the field near the end. He ran an even faster wind-aided 9.75 in his qualifying heat, and said that time should be a warning to his rivals.

"I'm satisfied. It was the first race of the season," Powell said. "It's the first I've opened so well in my career so I'm happy. The 9.75 should open a few eyes."

The win was made easier by the fact that fellow Jamaican and Olympic champion Usain Bolt and Tyson Gay of the United States skipped the meet, but Powell said he looks forward to facing his main rivals later in the season. "This year will be very exciting because all the guys are waiting to run against each other," Powell said. "Tonight I did well so the next race should be a lot of better."

Asked how he can beat Bolt, Powell smiled and said "just run, just run. That is what I have to do."



Jamaica's Asafa Powell finishes the 100m Heat 2 during IAAF Diamond League in Doha, Qatar, Friday May 14, 2010, and Allyson Felix, right, of U.S., crosses the line to finish the 400m during IAAF Diamond League in Doha, Qatar, Friday May 14, 2010.

Associated Press

Americans set the tone in many of the other elite events, with Lolo Jones and Bershawn Jackson winning their hurdles events. Allyson Felix came from the middle of the pack to claim the women's 400 in 50.15 seconds, though fellow American Debbie Dunn finished a disappointing fourth.

Christian Cantwell won the men's shot put with a season best throw of 21.82, which also was a stadium record.

In the women's 100 hurdles, Jones held off a challenge

from Priscilla Lopes-Schliep of Canada to win with a time of 12.63. Jones also had a slow start and clipped the first two hurdles before taking control of the race, beating Lopes-Schliep by .04 seconds.

"I hit two hurdles, so midway through the race I said there is no way I'll win," Jones said. "Then I started pulling things together. I was completed shocked I won. That I was able to get back in control, I was really proud of myself."

Jackson, the Olympic bronze medalist, used a strong finish

down the stretch to clock 48.66, beating Clement by .16 seconds. Olympic champion Angelo Taylor finished a disappointing fourth.

It was redemption of sorts for Jackson after his last trip to Doha at the World Indoors ended in frustration. He entered that event as the favorite in the 400 but faded after tangling with another runner in the final bend. He left the field pounding the walls as he passed by reporters.

This time, he crossed the finish line with a smile and

raised his arms as he made his victory lap — and then predicted he'll be doing a lot more of those this season.

"I want to be No. 1, I want to win all the Diamond League races," the American said. "Today because of the wind, we could not get better times. But it was nice to beat the Olympic champion."

Felix, a three-time world champion in the 200, said her win in the 400 increased her confidence that she could possibly achieve a double at the worlds next year.

"I would love to be able to double but you know your body has to be able to handle it," Felix said. "This is really like the test. It would be amazing."

The Doha meet is the first of 14 around the world in the Diamond League — which is the successor to the Golden League. Besides Bolt and fellow sprinter Tyson Gay, the meet is also missing the three athletes who shared the \$1 million Golden League jackpot last year — Russian pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva, American 400 runner Sanya Richards and Ethiopian long-distance runner Kenenisa Bekele. Isinbayeva is taking a break from the sport this season after failing to win a medal at the world indoor championships while Richards and Bekele are out injured. □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NHL Playoffs

Flyers complete stunning comeback against Bruins

HOWARD ULMAN

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Just as they did in the series as a whole, the Philadelphia Flyers fought back from a 3-0 deficit to beat the Boston Bruins 4-3 on Friday, completing a stunning turnaround and booking a place in the NHL Eastern Conference finals.

Simon Gagne scored on a power play with 7:08 left to cap a comeback from a three-goal deficit as the Flyers became only the third team in NHL history to win a series after losing the first three games.

Philadelphia will start the next round at home Sunday against another surprising conference finalist, the Montreal Canadiens.

Gagne, a major force since returning from a toe injury for Game 4, scored with only 18 seconds left in a power play after the Bruins were penalized for having too many men on the ice.

The Flyers capitalized when captain Mike Richards' shot from the right circle hit players in front of Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask. The puck bounced and Gagne, stationed to Rask's left, flipped the puck over the goalie's right



Philadelphia Flyers players, including Lukas Krajicek (2), of the Czech Republic, Arron Asham (45) and Blair Betts (11) celebrate their 4-3 win against the Bruins in Game 7 of a second-round NHL playoff hockey series, Friday, May 14, 2010, in Boston.

Associated Press

shoulder.

The only other teams to win a series after trailing 3-0 were the 1942 Toronto Maple Leafs, who beat Detroit, and the 1975 New York Islanders, who eliminated Pittsburgh.

The other 159 teams that won the first three games in a series all won them.

The Bruins shot out to a 3-0 lead on power-play goals by Michael Ryder and Milan Lucic and another goal by

Lucic, all within 14:10 of the first period. Then James van Riemsdyk scored for Philadelphia with 2:48 left in the first period before second-period goals by Scott Hartnell at 2:49 and Danny Briere at

8:39 to tie it.

Boston, having lost its previous two Game 7s, played aggressively at the start, and got a break when Hartnell was penalized for high-sticking and Ryder scored his fourth playoff goal on a rebound 8 seconds later.

Another Boston power play 3 minutes later led to another goal, this one by Lucic, who tipped in a pass across the crease from Dennis Wideman in the right corner.

Lucic struck again, scoring his fifth playoff goal five minutes later, on a shot from the right circle.

Flyers goalie Michael Leighton, who took over in Game 5 when Brian Boucher sprained the medial collateral ligament in his left knee, didn't let another goal past him.

Van Riemsdyk began the comeback with his first playoff goal on a soft shot that trickled by Rask. That was the first of nine consecutive shots by Philadelphia. One of them was Hartnell's second goal of the playoffs. Another was Briere's seventh playoff goal — on a wraparound.

There were no more goals — until Gagne sent the Bruins into an offseason wondering how it all fell apart. □

Clijsters and Davydenko pull out of French Open

PARIS (AP) — The French Tennis Federation says Kim Clijsters has pulled out of the French Open because of a foot injury that has failed to heal, and Nikolay Davydenko has been ruled out by a wrist injury.

champion and world No. 10, joins Urszula Radwanska, Sania Mirza, Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Sabine Lisicki on the list of absentees. She will be replaced by Stephanie Dubois of Canada, the federation said Friday.

Clijsters, the U.S. Open

deals another blow to the men's field, which already lost Tommy Haas, Juan Martin del Potro, Igor Andreev and James Blake. They are being replaced by Michal Przysiezny, Daniel Gimeno-Traver, Paolo Lorenzi, Ricardo Mello and Kevin Anderson. □

Belgium's Kim Clijsters waves to members of the public during the Fed Cup World Group playoff tennis match against Estonia, in Hasselt, Belgium, Sunday, April 25, 2010. Clijsters beat Estonia's Maret Ani Saturday, to win 6-4, 6-2, despite needing treatment on her left foot during the second set.



Aruba TODAY

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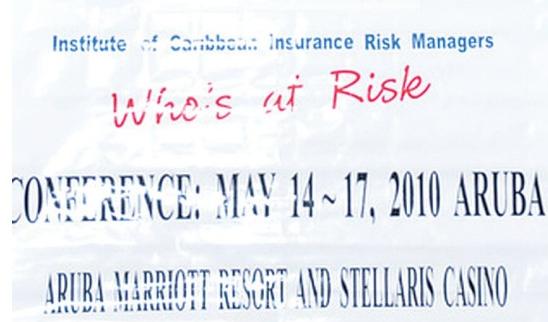
LOCAL

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Saturday, May 15, 2010

Marriott Hosts Institute of Caribbean Insurance Risk Managers Conference



PALM BEACH – From Friday May 14 till Monday May 17, the Aruba Marriott Resort hosts the Institute of Caribbean Insurance Risk Managers conference (ICIRM).

The conference started with a welcome cocktail reception on Friday evening in the Ballroom foyer of the Aruba Marriott followed by a dinner in the Grand Ballroom. Aruba's Chamber of Commerce was present at the cocktail reception.

The four-day conference consists of daily seminars with international and local host speakers, discussing the different aspects of Life and Health Insurance, from costing of the premiums by the Actuary to the development of the Reinsurance Treaty. The highlight of the conference is Sunday's Medical Day with key note speakers from Aruba's All Saints University,

Jackson Memorial Hospital, John Hopkins Hospital and Baptist Hospital. The 100 attendees will enjoy some free time at De Palm Island

and a special cultural event will be displayed Saturday evening at the Marriott resort.

Continued on Page B11



At Buccaneer Restaurant

An outstanding Mothers Day feast with loved ones



GASPARITO- Mothers Day is every day, but on this special official holiday families get together to praise the queen's for a day. At the Buccaneer this

past Sunday the doors were open from 11-10 pm. It was great to see the amount of love that poured through the establishment. Mothers with their families enjoyed their special dinner.

A special 10th birthday celebration took place for Joshwin Tachi. Together with his two brothers, mother Roslien, Aunt Geraldine, Grandma Regina. The staff greeted Joshwin with birthday wishes as he blew out the candles.

Buccaneer has always been hands down for seafood lovers and with over 30 years this establishment is still loved by the locals who made it what it is today.

From the Buccaneer family and staff "We wish you all a very blessed Mothers Day everyday." □



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Aruba representation in Holland

Director Desiree Croes working to change course

ORANJESTAD - The Aruba representation in Holland, Aruba House and the student mentor service have received bad grades from a group of people they are supposed to serve. That is what Aruba House Director Desiree Croes stated during her brief stay on the island.

Croes, who was here on for a week met her boss here, Prime Minister Mike Eman and also with Minister of Education Arthur Dowers. Her task is to manage the Aruba House, and to help execute plans laid out by the Government regarding service, guidance and attention for and to Arubans living in Holland. Students, some 1500, make up a big part of that group.

Desiree Croes upon assuming responsibility of the Aruba House six months ago called for an investigation on how Aruban students in Holland perceive the service of the island representation. Both the Aruba House and mentors received a bad grade, which means Croes and her team has a main task ahead to improve not only the perception but also actual service in general, she said.

The executive commented she now has a base to work on. First of all, Croes said she now knows what the patrons think about the Aruba House service and what they expect. She realized that many considered the Aruba representation as inaccessible and her focus now is to change that. Students in particular, who leave the island at a young age to go the universities, are confronted with so many new things at the same time. For many, it is the first time they are on their own; they don't know the society in Holland and have no idea where to go for what. "They need a place where they knock on the door, sometimes for even simple things. But if these simple things are not dealt with they can create major problems for their lives and their study." She referred to issues like rent disputes and registration in municipalities. "We also received the approval of Prime Minister Eman to request assistance of lawyers when and if necessary. We intermediate for our students."

Croes also stated she has a concrete image of the service of the Aruba House appointed mentors, who are supposed to guide and assist the students, from the moment they arrive in The Netherlands, throughout their student career.

Each mentor receives 24 Euros per month for first year students and 15 Euros for subsequent years. Some mentors, who do this job on a part time bases can earn up to 1500 Euros a month. Their task is to keep themselves informed about the needs and progress of the young Aruban students in Holland. For years, some mentors have failed to live up to that task, charging Aruba House, without truly keeping track of the students. There were cases that the people moved, and the mentor continued claiming monthly visit or phone calls, without even realizing the student is living elsewhere. Another case is one of a student who would not leave his house. Desperate parents in Aruba finally got hold of Aruba House and upon checking on student, turned out to be he was depressive. The mentor never knew about this.

Croes immediately set to change the structure and so far has been able to ensure mentors do comply with their responsibilities. She also pointed out students in the survey complained about the attitude of the mentors, most of whom are professional Arubans who have been living for some years in Holland now. She now meets regularly with the mentors to convince what the government and the Aruba community expects from them, namely to guide the bright young minds, far away from home, to a successful conclusion of their higher education.

There are other areas students need help, namely on their financial household. They leave Aruba with loans from the Aruba government, which is greatly supplemented by Dutch financial aid. Yet many don't seem to realize the money they receive is a loan, that eventually will have to be paid back, Croes said. Many live a posh life, "even with plasma television, blackberries, and so forth. Not exactly a poor student's life," she added. The Aruba House will increase efforts to make students more aware of their spending and how to better manage their finances.

But she also has a task ahead to ensure the Aruba House itself is properly managing its own finances. Croes, an attorney by profession, said when she took over the reins of Aruba House, she inherited not only some 25 de-motivated employees; she also encountered a situation of where financial norms and rules were non-



existent. And because of that, spending was not properly justified and many decisions were questionable. The Director ordered an audit that has been concluded but not yet documented. "Processes went wrong because of lack of clear rules at the Aruba House, rules that were in place in other public departments in Aruba." She commented that this was possible because of the financial structure of the Aruba representation, which managed its own budget. And even though there were not rules or norms on paper, she still blames the chaos on lack of moral judgment and therefore is awaiting the final report to determine what steps to take. □

Aruba TODAY

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At Pure Beach

Distinguished visitors honored



PALM BEACH -- Time-share owners at the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort were honored with certificates of distinction on behalf of

the Aruba government. The ceremony was conducted by the representative of the Minister of Tourism, Ricardo Croes who thanked the visitors

for making Aruba their home away from home. He also expressed sincere gratitude to guests for their loyalty to the island and its



The Aruba Hospitality and Security Foundation is shocked and saddened with the unexpected passing of Police Inspector Eric Zaandam, who has for many years been in charge of the Beach Police.



*"We all have different paths along the way
Our destination is a place
far greater than we know
For some the journey is fast
For some the journey is slow
And now that the journey has
suddenly ended
We will remember the good in the man
for whom he was
Do not stand at my grave and cry
I am not there I did not die
It's only for a while that we must part
I will bless the memories within your heart
I will always be with you"*

*To his wife and children we say:
Remember that they are not gone who live in the hearts of
those they leave behind.*

President and Board AH&SF

people, having brought many friends here, along with family members, introducing them to the wonders of Aruba.

Pictured here Avril Culley representing the resort management and Distinguished Visitors:

Charles & Keran Lockhart, Lou DeNome and his daughter, Carol & William Blauvelt, Kathy & Joe Boss, John Borek and family, and Goodwill Ambassador Jose Lozano and his family, from Venezuela, who has been visiting for the past 20 years. □



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May 16, 2010

For the 27th time in the history of the AIDS pandemic, the annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial will be marked in communities around the world by a vibrant display of community activism and solidarity Sunday, May 16, 2010. Some 1,200 organizations in 109 countries are expected to participate in the event.

This year's theme for the Memorial is "Many Lights for Human Rights," which the Global Health Council hopes will circulate globally to promote greater understanding about the legal barriers marginalized communities can face in obtaining access to antiretroviral treatment and care, HIV prevention services and basic healthcare, including for HIV-related diseases like tuberculosis and malaria. Countries involved include some of the oldest hosts of the Candlelight Memorial (like the Philippines), some of the

largest (Nigeria), and some of those with the highest burden (Swaziland).

The Candlelight Memorial, started in 1983 in the United States, is the world's oldest grassroots movement against the disease and one of the largest public health campaigns in the world today. A program of the

Global Health Council led by volunteer community-based organizations, the Candlelight Memorial is meant to remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS, to support those living with HIV and affected by its impact, and to move communities to action. Memorials – ranging from small gatherings

beneath a tree to multi-day national events – are planned throughout the year by volunteers on the frontlines of the pandemic.

"The Candlelight Memorial is as necessary today as it was nearly three decades ago," said Global Health Council President and CEO Jeffrey L. Sturchio. "With over 33 million people living with HIV and a new generation of youth emerging every day, we must continue to create public space to learn from the past and motivate actions to improve our approach to HIV and other global health challenges in the future. That's what the Memorial offers us."

One of the key ways the Candlelight Memorial aims to change that approach is by developing the capacity of the hundreds of volunteer organizations who register with the program each year. Through guides, fact sheets

and online services, as well as leadership development activities, the Council is using the traditionally one-day event to promote a year-round program fostering cross-cutting technical skills essential for addressing broader social change.

HIV/AIDS is part of the Council's comprehensive global health agenda and one of the most important issues around which the organization engages its diverse members and partners in advancing global health policy.

A special Twitter feed (tweet to #AIDSCandlelight) has been designed this year to follow the memorials and that feed can be followed on the Candlelight website. To learn more about the Global Health Council and the Candlelight Memorial, visit www.candlelightmemorial.org. □

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HUMAN HINTS

Emotional Paradox

When we fully embrace Unity consciousness, we master the ability to physically manifest. Funny thing is, at that point, we no longer care because we know we already have everything. When we know it's an illusion, we don't care about the result of our pursuits. We no longer seek fulfillment outside of ourselves, because we know that everything is within us.

In the face of Lack, maintain

absolute faith in the infinite abundance surrounding us. The result is everything the three dimensional illusion has to offer. When we know its an illusion, we detach our emotions and gain control over it.

Enlightenment is usually not an Ecstatic Experience of Infinite Bliss.

When we realize that the Illusion is just a false sense of feeling separate, we become aware of Unity Consciousness, where we

are all a part of Infinite Abundance. It is the realization of Completion that has always been there, far more natural and effortless than anything in the physical realm.

Ego thinks Enlightenment will be a thrill ride, but we all know that the true thrill ride is being Human. When we see how hollow the Illusion really is, we gain control over the ride.

You won't find a thrill in enlightenment, but you will find Ultimate Completion. When you release all emotional attachments from physical things, people, and situations, you will find the power to embrace them fully. Without emotional attachment to the physical illusion, you will have no fear, and you will be able to open yourself without reserve.

Therein lies a paradox. You must remove your emotion from the three dimensional world in order to fully embrace the physical with all of your Heart and emotion.

Since the goal is to release your emotional attachment to the physical, your emotions will show you what part of the physical world you're attached to. When something in the physical world incites your emotions, you are emotionally attached to it, and it has control over you.

You don't have to stop caring, just care in a different way. Instead of trying to control, release the emotional stranglehold you have on yourself and have faith that everything is for the best. Let the Universe do its thing, because you have no choice. You can't control Infinite Unity Consciousness. That's just silly!

The trick is to embrace the physical world in every way, while knowing that it is an illusion. Be completely dedicated to every moment, knowing that it can all disappear in an instant. Pursue your dreams with all of your passion, while not caring at all about the result of your efforts. The outcome

of our efforts is not for us to decide. Only when we let go of the outcome, can we fully embrace the pursuit.

Until Tomorrow...

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. Human Hints Daily is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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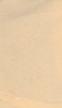
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PG HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON		
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As a nurse, I know it's not right to discriminate against any person under my care, including persons with HIV or AIDS. It's my responsibility to protect your privacy.

Confidentiality... Your RIGHT, Our DUTY

 DISCRIMINATION DOES NOT PROTECT AGAINST HIV...  Caribbean Epidemiology Center  Pan American Health Organization  United Nations Development Program  UNAIDS  Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria  World Health Organization  UNESCO  UNAIDS

Aruba Birdlife Conservation established



ORANJESTAD - On May 11th, 2010, in the office of notary public Rodriguez-Taekema, a new foundation

was established; the Aruba Birdlife Conservation with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and

birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on

increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation.

Alliances will be made with internationally acclaimed organizations that protect wild birds. One of the objectives of the foundation is the publication of educational material to make Arubans as well as tourists conscious of the beauty of Aruban birds and to create appreciation for the beauty of the Aruban flora and fauna in general. The foundation can be contacted through e-mail at Aruba.Birdlife.Conservation@gmail.com.

In the picture sitting from left to right: The founders Mrs. Annette Peterson-Bredie, better-known at Colegio Arubano as "juffrouw Bredie" (secretary), Mr. Greg Peterson, amateur photographer (chairman), and Dr. Tim Peterson (treasurer). In the background notary public Mrs. Hilde Rodriguez-Taekema and her assistants Mrs. Vivian Maduro and Mrs. Janine Wouters. □



The best Seafood is at Fishes & More

PALM BEACH – Fishes & More Restaurant in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach has been a great success since day one. It is said once you taste their fishes, you will always come back for more. Now you can enjoy their completely new renovated dining atmosphere.

Owners Jeroen Kuling & Hans

Heijink work exceptionally hard to ensure the restaurant is at its best for everyone to enjoy. The courteous and friendly staff will pamper you from 4 pm till 11pm, every day of the week. Come in early for the daily fresh catches, such as red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi,

wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice. Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. Fishes and More is for everyone. For those who like to try something different, for those who can't shake the seafood addiction, for those who want to eat a great piece of veal, or pasta, everyone is more than welcome.

Arawak Gardens is right across from the hotels. We invite you to take a little walk to a grand dinner!

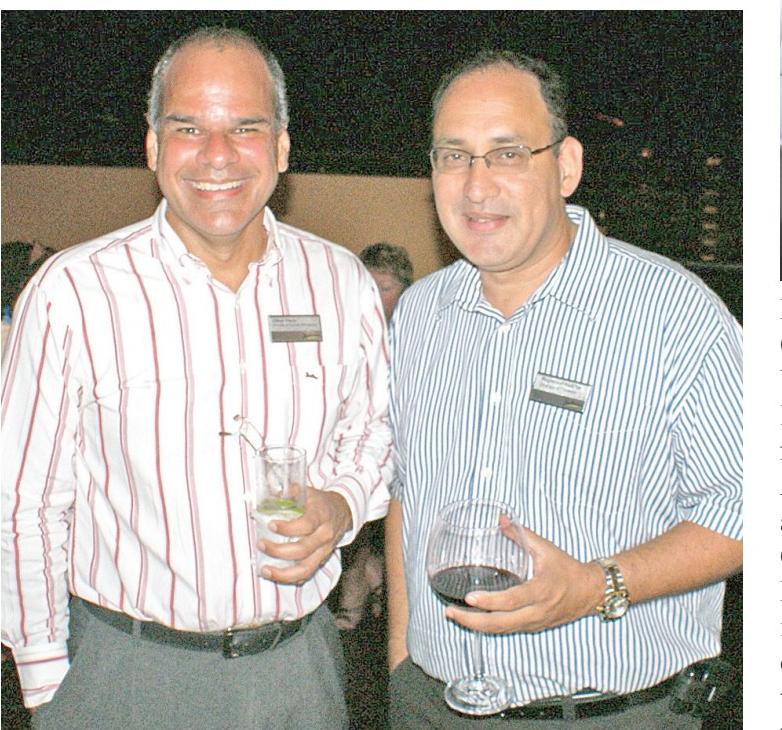


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The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa orchestrated a much-enjoyed roof-top sunset reception in their honor at the resort penthouse. The party was superbly catered by the culinary team, under the guidance of Food & Beverage Director Gerard Coste, and congenially hosted by General Manager Rob Smith, Senior Sales Manager Lily



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The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
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For more information or to
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SUPERB NEW ILLUSIONS

MAGIC Live! Comedy On the Beach 3 shows in 1

At the Westin Aruba at 9.PM nightly

PALM BEACH - STEINFELD presents WOW factor! at the MAGIC LIVE!® ...theater-of-illusions show, Westin - Aruba. MAGIC Live!® theater-of-illusions show, starring Adam Steinfeld... is an amazing night of Magic, Grand Illusions and Comedy, superb magic at it's highest level, a lot of fun from start to finish, laugh-out-loud funny, intelligent, sophisticated, unconventional grand illusions, that will keep you asking, 'how

the heck did he do that?' Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate Magic Live! theater-of-illusions theater,

every seat is close to the stage.

In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees, then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes!

Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a

IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show

Where: Westin - Aruba, Palm beach (high-rise area)

Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld

ShowTime: 9:00 pm, nightly, (7 days a week) theater opens at 8:30pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE: AT THEATER OF ILLUSIONS box office located in Westin lobby starting at 7:30pm nightly up until showtime, or at front desk at anytime

Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$34.95 adults



triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world. I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba, and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a

collaborated work with new england mystery writer Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film.

SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD. MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show....at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on



"Dinner is almost ready..."

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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Driftwood Restaurant

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Frequent Alcohol Use Might Hasten HIV Disease Progression

HIV-positive people who consume two or more alcoholic drinks every day might experience faster disease progression than lighter drinkers, according to a study published online in the journal AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses.

Researchers have been struggling to measure alcohol's effect on HIV disease progression almost since the beginning of the epidemic. Some studies, especially those in animals or test tubes,

have indicated that alcohol (ethanol) is directly toxic to CD4 cells. However, studies in humans have produced varying results.

To determine the direct effect of alcohol consumption on HIV disease progression, Marianna Baum, PhD, RD, from Florida International University in Miami, and her colleagues tracked CD4 counts and viral loads in 231 HIV-positive adults during a 30-month period. The group they studied was socially challenged in a

number of ways. The average monthly income was less than \$350, and nearly half were homeless during the study. Only 54 percent drank alcohol, however. Of those who drank, only 23 percent had two or more drinks per day. Those classified as heavy drinkers consumed four servings of alcohol on average per day. About 67 percent of the people in the study were on antiretroviral (ARV) medication.

Baum and her colleagues



found that those who drank more than two servings of alcohol per day were far more likely to lose CD4 cells over time. People who drank heavily were 2.91 times more likely to have their CD4 counts drop below 200 than people who drank moderately, rarely or not at all. What's more, the increased risk for disease progression held true even when Baum's team factored in adherence, ARV use, viral load and crack-cocaine use.

The authors concede that factors beyond the ones they measured could have influenced the study's outcome, but the researchers state that their study provides some of the strongest evidence

available that alcohol might affect disease progression.

"Our findings support the hypothesis that frequent alcohol intake, as well as the combination of frequent alcohol and crack-cocaine, accelerates HIV disease progression," write Baum and her colleagues.

"The effect of alcohol on CD4 cell decline appears to be independent of [ARV treatment], through direct action on CD4 cells," they conclude. But they also point out that "alcohol and substance abuse may lead to unmeasured behaviors that promote HIV disease progression." □



The White House displays a large red ribbon in 2009

GEORGETOWN — The United States and the Caribbean Community (Caricom) signed an agreement Tuesday paving the way for Washington to expand an AIDS relief program to 12 Caribbean nations.

Previously, only two Caricom member-nations --- Guyana and Haiti --- and the Dominican Republic had benefited from the program introduced by the George W. Bush administration for African and Caribbean countries worst affected by HIV and AIDS. Under the agreement, the 12 countries would get 25 million dollars annually or up to 125 million over the next five years to assist with prevention, testing, strategic information and counseling, said the charge d'affaires of the

US embassy, Karen Williams.

"The focus is on partnership and working with national governments and regional programmes on ownership and support of national programmes," she said.

The new beneficiary nations are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, The Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. Latest statistics show that while HIV and AIDS have stabilized in the Caribbean, AIDS-related illnesses are the fourth leading cause of death among women and the fifth leading cause of mortality among men. □



HIV STIGMA

Because of the stigma associated with HIV, many people are reluctant to get tested and an infected person may unknowingly continue to have unprotected sexual relationships.

Persons already diagnosed know they have a responsibility to prevent further transmission. Fear of being stigmatized, however, may prevent some persons from disclosing their status.

Stigma drives the infection underground and makes it more difficult to contain the spread of HIV.

Before you stigmatize or discriminate against someone with HIV, STOP! THINK ABOUT IT.

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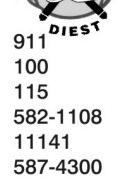
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2010



Senate Approves New Curbs On Rating Agencies, Though One Provision Overlooked

Shahien Nasiripour

While the much-maligned credit rating agencies lost some power today after the Senate approved two measures pushing the government into the ratings business, they dodged a bullet in the exclusion of another.

The agencies, which rate the creditworthiness of corporations and the financial obligations they sell to investors, like bonds and commercial paper, have been blamed for playing a major role in exacerbating -- if not causing -- the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. By slapping flawed AAA ratings (*allegedly sometimes knowingly) on financial products like mortgage-backed bonds and other mortgage-linked securities, the agencies lulled investors and regulators into thinking they were risk-free. Then, after they finally woke up to the inaccurate ratings, they downgraded them in near-unison, compelling many big investors to dump the securities and causing a downward spiral in prices that resulted in losses totaling in the hundreds of billions.

But because of the protections the agencies have been afforded in law, investors and others have been unsuccessful in exacting monetary revenge. Worse, the government's stamp of approval on the ratings the agencies issue -- federal rules compel institutional investors and regulators to use them -- virtually guarantees the major credit raters' oligopoly, and

the public's continued reliance on them. Investors, legislators, academics and policymakers all agree that the agencies -- and the way they do business -- need to be reformed.

But in passing a measure that attempts to end their oligopoly, the Senate purposely did not include a provision in the House bill that forces major credit rating agencies to be accountable to investors by scrapping a Securities and Exchange Commission rule that has shielded them from civil lawsuits for nearly 30 years.

The provision, known as Rule 436(g), insulates the 10 credit rating agencies recognized by the government as "Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations" from liability if they knowingly make false or misleading statements in connection with securities registration statements to dupe investors. Other experts -- like the rating agencies not part of the group of 10 -- are legally liable for their statements "to assure that disclosure regarding securities is accurate," according to a 2009 SEC document supporting the removal of the exemption.

In short, if a Standard & Poor's or Moody's Investors Service knowingly tries to deceive an investor, under current law that investor can't sue.

The SEC document references a paper prepared by Frank Partnoy, a professor at the University of San Diego School of Law and an expert on securities law, who "argues

that in order to make [major credit rating agencies] more accountable, they must be subject to a credible threat of liability," according to the SEC.

Public employee pension funds, like the California Public Employees' Retirement System, the largest in the country, support the removal of the exemption. So does the Council of Institutional Investors, a nonprofit association of public, union and corporate pension funds with combined assets that exceed \$3 trillion.

"[T]his would represent a large step forward in deterring harmful conduct by the [credit rating agencies] in the area of structured finance," CalPERS wrote in an April 21 letter to the SEC. The major credit rating agencies are "financial gatekeepers" whose "actions have a significant impact on the health and well-being of the financial markets, both at home and abroad," the Council wrote in a Wednesday letter to top Senate leaders. "As experts, they have the ability to analyze and verify mountains of information for investors who do not have the capabilities to do so for themselves."

The major agencies also have access to "material non-public information" which in part makes them "even more important to the functioning of the market" because "financial products have become more complex and opaque."

"In the eyes of investors, regulators and the market at

large, rescinding the exemption would remove [the 10 major credit rating agencies] from the pedestal they have come to occupy," according to the Council's letter.

Those who support a removal of the exemption argue that by subjecting the credit raters to the possibility of lawsuits, it will force them to be more thorough and careful when issuing their ratings. In other words, it will discipline them. In a January op-ed published in the Wall Street Journal, Deven Sharma, the president of S&P, wrote: "Currently, rating agencies face the same liability standards as accountants and securities analysts."

That's not true, retorted a top SEC official less than two weeks later in a letter to the editor.

"Nearly 30 years ago, the SEC adopted a rule that effectively exempts recognized credit rating agencies from experts' liability under the Securities Act," wrote David Becker, the SEC's general counsel and senior policy director. "No other experts have this protection."

The three biggest rating agencies -- S&P, Moody's and Fitch Ratings -- oppose the removal of this protection.

The House bill, which passed in December, calls for its removal. The Senate bill that hit the floor, though, did not,

and after the chamber passed an amendment Thursday offered by Sens. George LeMieux (R-Fla.) and Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) that copied some of the language in the House bill (except for this particular provision), it probably never will. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) offered an amendment that would get rid of the exemption, but because the Senate is reportedly allowing its members to bring just one amendment up for a vote, and a Brown amendment was already voted on, the Senate likely will not have an opportunity to vote on his amendment. The LeMieux-Cantwell amendment passed by a 61 to 38 margin (one Senator didn't vote). Of the 38 votes against it, 37 were cast by Democrats; the other dissenter was Joe Lieberman, a Connecticut Independent who caucuses with Democrats.

At least one of the dissenters, Virginia Democrat Jim Webb, cast his vote against the provision "because it wasn't strong enough," Will Jenkins, Webb's deputy communications director, said in an e-mail.

But the Senate bill, like the House bill, does provide investors with an improved ability to sue credit raters for faulty ratings. A spokesman for LeMieux pointed to these provisions when asked why his amendment did not include the House language on the 436(g) rule.

The agencies have enjoyed a near-perfect legal record by claiming that their ratings fall under the protection of the First Amendment -- free speech, they've successfully argued. □

Según presidente ruso, Dmitry Medvedev

Presidente Lula tiene pocas probabilidades de éxito en su misión a Irán

MOSCU (Reuters) - El presidente ruso, Dmitry Medvedev, dijo el viernes que su homólogo de Brasil tiene pocas probabilidades de éxito en su misión de convencer a Irán este fin de semana para que negocie sobre su disputado programa nuclear. El presidente de Brasil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, viajará a Irán este fin de semana en un intento por convencer a la república islámica de que reconsidera un estancado acuerdo de intercambio de combustible nuclear, aunque las potencias mundiales están discutiendo nuevas sanciones en su contra. "Usted quiere que yo dé las probabilidades del presidente Lula", dijo Medvedev, respondiendo a un reportero que preguntó sobre la posibilidad de éxito



El presidente de Brasil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, junto a su par ruso Dmitry Medvedev, durante una conferencia de prensa conjunta en el Kremlin de Moscú. Mayo 14 2010. REUTERS/Sergei Chirikov

del mandatario brasileño en su viaje a Irán el sábado.

"Okey. Como mi amigo el optimista, también deberé ser presidente brasileño es un optimista. Le doy un 30 por

ciento", agregó durante una conferencia de prensa conjunta con el líder de Brasil.

A la misma pregunta sobre las opciones de éxito en las reuniones con el líder iraní, que comenzarán el domingo, en una escala de uno a 10, Lula respondió: "daría un 9,9". En Washington, la secretaria de Estado estadounidense, Hillary Clinton, dijo que el intercambio entre Lula y Medvedev "ilustra el cerro que los brasileños están tratando de escalar". Medvedev, haciendo eco a un alto funcionario estadounidense que habló anteriormente esta semana, dijo que el viaje de Lula probablemente sea la última posibilidad de encontrar una solución al estancamiento por el disputado programa iraní. □

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